

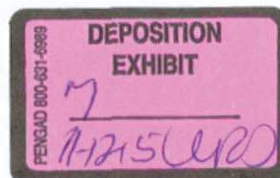
**EXHIBIT A**

Dear Friends and Co-Workers:

I have known many of you for some time now, and I count you all as my friends. What I must tell you is very difficult for me and is taking all the courage I can muster. I am writing this both to inform you of a significant change in my life and to ask for your patience, understanding, and support, which I would treasure greatly.

I have a gender identity disorder that I have struggled with my entire life. I have managed to hide it very well all these years. It all started when I was about five years old. I knew something was different about me, but I could not have told you what it was then. When I was about ten years old, I started to ask my Mom questions. Mom related to me that all the signs pointed out that she was going to have a baby girl. Mom was so sure that I was going to be a girl that everything she bought was for a girl. So for the first few months of my life I was dressed in girl clothes, because they could not afford to go and buy all new clothes. Perhaps the signs were not wrong after all.

I know this has nothing to do with my condition. It is a birth defect that needs to be fixed. I have been in therapy for nearly four years now and have been diagnosed as a transsexual. I have felt imprisoned in a body that does not match my mind, and this has caused me great despair and loneliness. With the support of my loving wife, I have decided to become the person that my mind already is. I cannot begin to describe the shame and suffering that I have lived with. Toward that end, I intend to have sex reassignment surgery. The first step I must take is to live and work full-time as a woman for one year. At the end of my vacation on August 26, 2013, I will return to work as my true self, Amiee Australia Stephens, in appropriate business attire.



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I realize that some of you may have trouble understanding this. In truth, I have had to live with it every day of my life and even I do not fully understand it myself. I have tried hard all my life, to please everyone around me, to do the right thing and not rock the boat. As distressing as this is sure to be to my friends and some of my family, I need to do this for myself and for my own peace of mind and to end the agony in my soul. Through it all, I have learned that life is an adventure, and I would like to believe that the best is yet to come. I hope we can enjoy it together. It is my wish that I can continue my work at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes doing what I have always done, which is my best!

Sincerely,

*Anthony Stephens*

Anthony Stephens

*Amiee A. Stephens*

Amiee A. Stephens

If you should have questions or need guidance in this, please contact my therapist, Cecelia Hanchon. She has indicated that she would gladly offer assistance to anyone who has questions and can answer questions much better than I. I have enclosed her business card.

Thanks



Cecelia M. Hanchon, LMSW

AASECT-Diplomat Certified Sex Therapist  
Individuals - Couples

*I am a fee for service clinician, I do not take insurance.  
A paid statement will be provided. Some insurance companies will  
reimburse; I do not guarantee this.*